

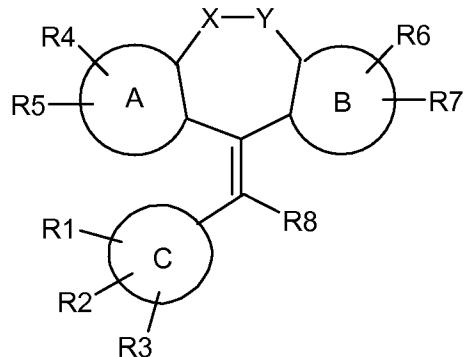
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-121. (Cancelled)

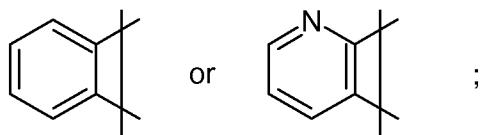
122. (Withdrawn) A novel compound of Formula I:



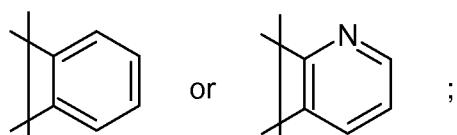
Formula I

wherein,

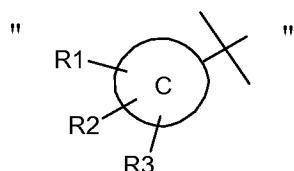
“A” represents



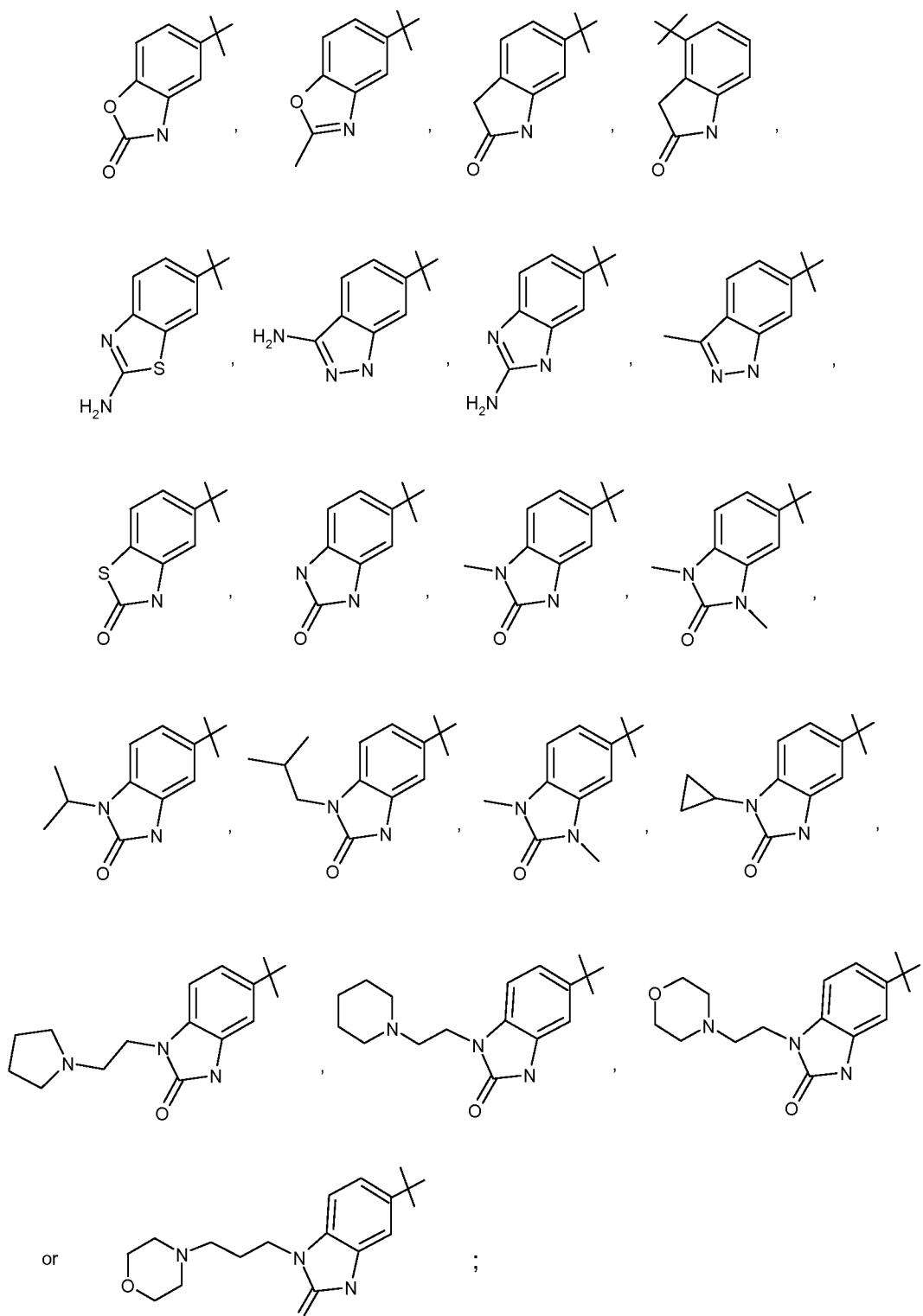
“B” represents



and



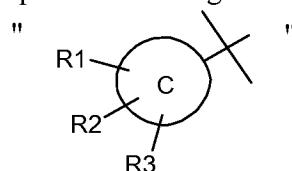
represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:



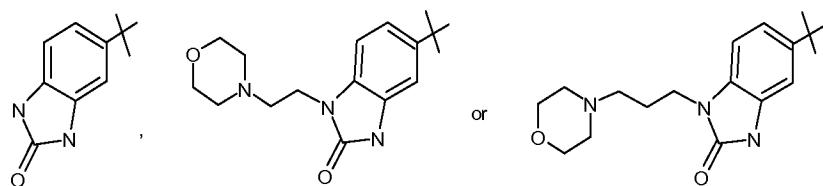
R^4 - R^7 each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, or OR^{14} wherein R^{14} represents (C_1 - C_4)alkyl-aryl, (C_1 - C_4)alkyl-substituted aryl, (C_1 - C_4)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C_1 - C_4)alkyl-(C_3 - C_7)cycloalkyl;

R^8 represents hydrogen, halo, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, hydroxymethyl, (C_1 - C_4)alkyl -(C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, or COR^{12} wherein R^{12} represents (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy; (C_3 - C_7)cycloalkyl, phenyl, or substituted aryl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

123. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein

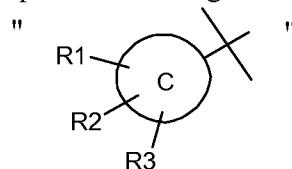


represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R^1 - R^3 , wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:

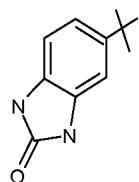


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

124. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 123 wherein



represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R^1 - R^3 , wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

125. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein R^4 and R^6 each independently represent hydrogen, halo, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, or OR^{14} wherein R^{14}

represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl-aryl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted aryl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl..

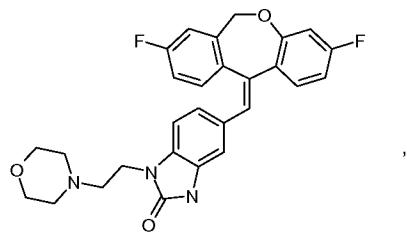
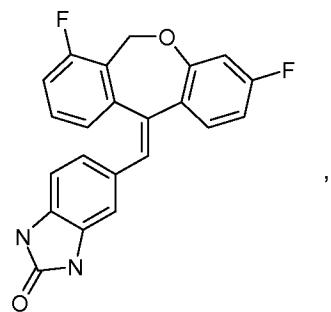
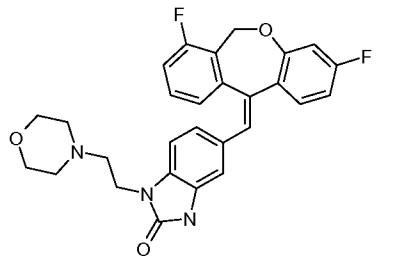
126. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein R⁵ and R⁷ each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, or (C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

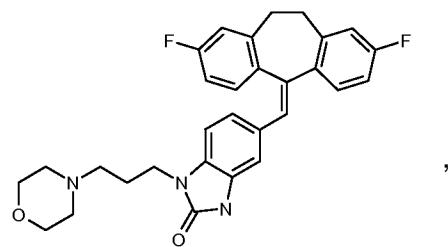
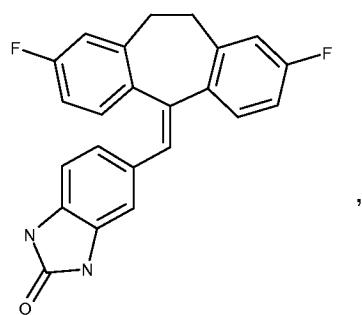
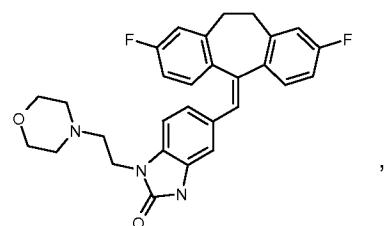
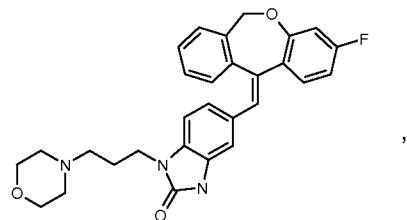
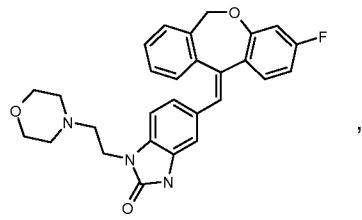
127. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein R⁸ represents hydrogen, halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy , or (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl.

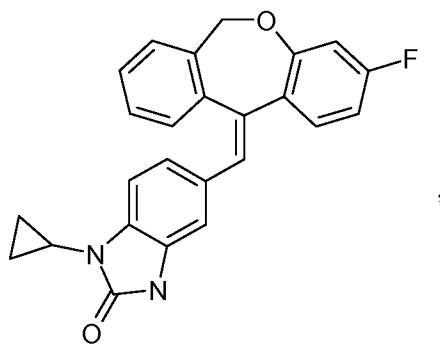
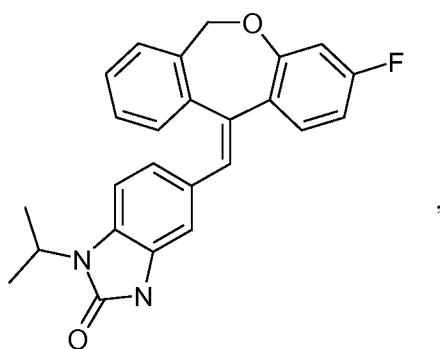
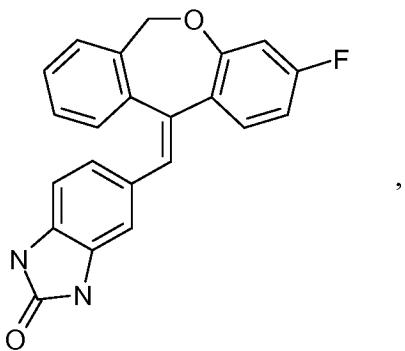
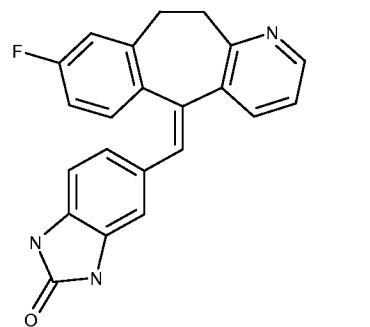
128. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 127 wherein R⁸ represents halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

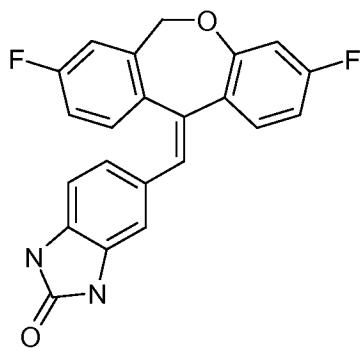
129. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 127 wherein R⁸ represents hydrogen.

130. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 122 which is selected from the group consisting of

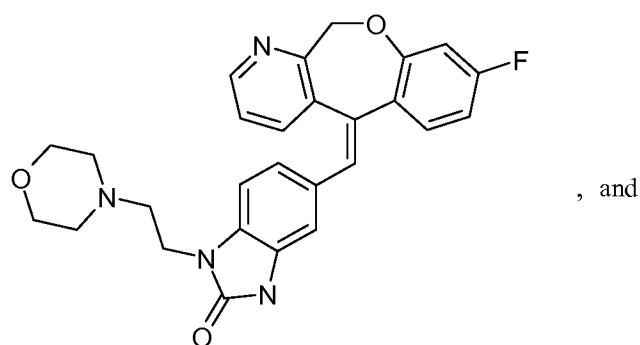




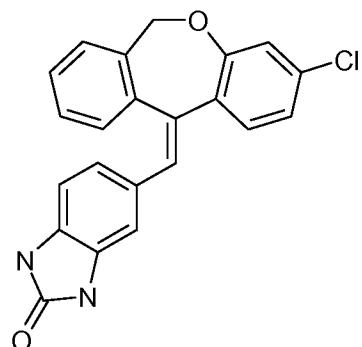




,



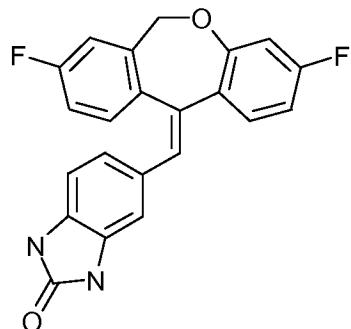
, and



,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

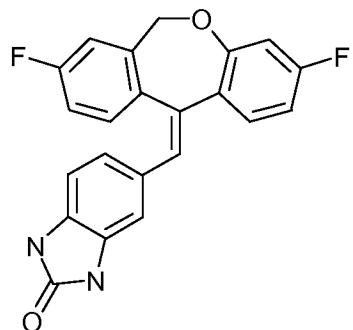
131. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

132. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I according to Claim 122 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

133. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula

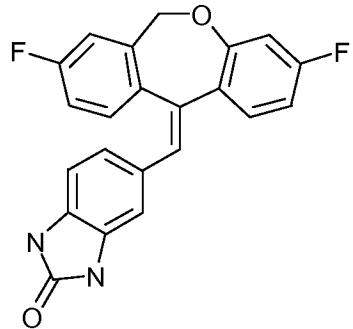


in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

134. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to Claim 122.

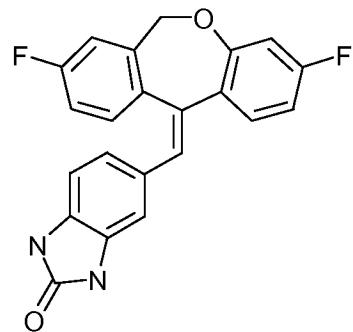
135. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment for the treatment of hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to Claim 122.

136. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of the formula



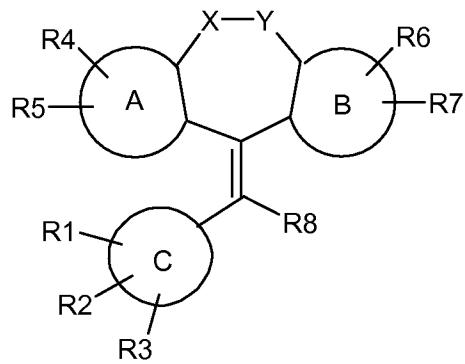
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

137. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

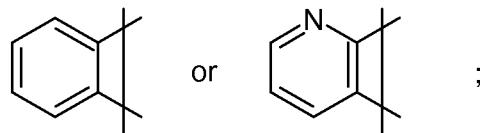
138. (New) A compound of Formula I:



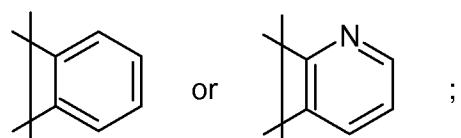
Formula I

wherein,

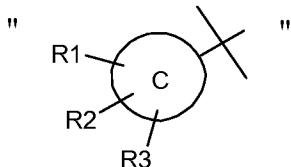
“A” represents



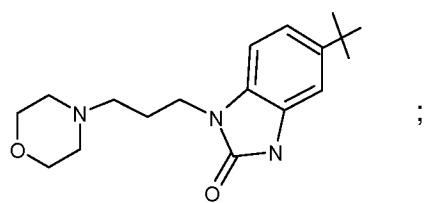
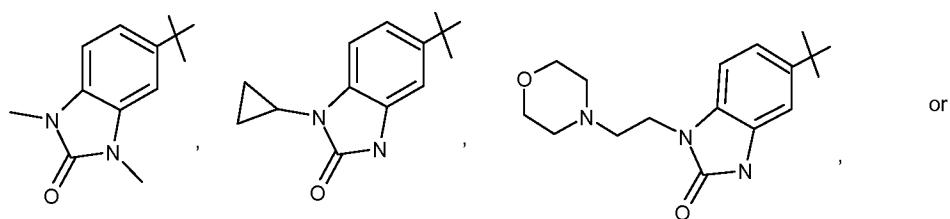
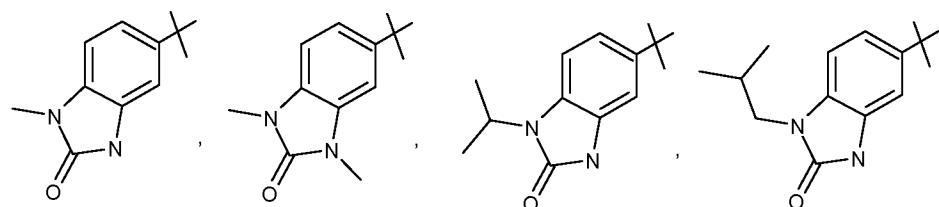
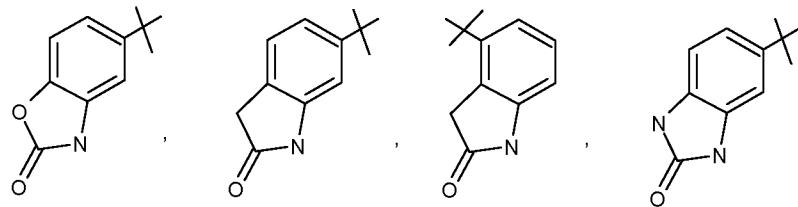
“B” represents



and

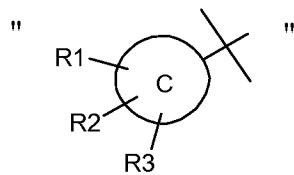


represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:

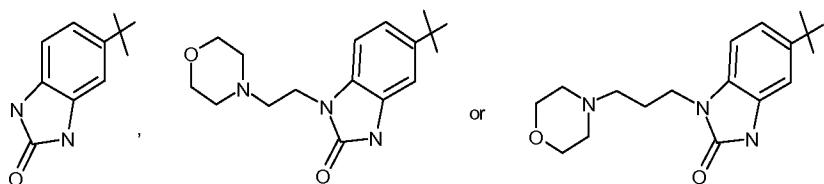


X and Y together represent $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, or $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$;
“ ” represents a double bond;
 $\text{R}^4\text{-R}^7$ each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$)alkyl, or ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$)alkoxy; and
 R^8 represents hydrogen or ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$)alkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

139. (New) The compound according to Claim 138 wherein

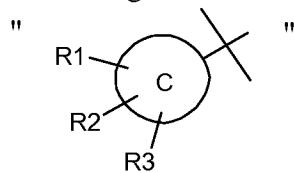


represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:

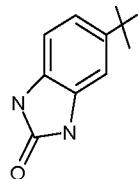


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

140. (New) The compound according to Claim 139 wherein

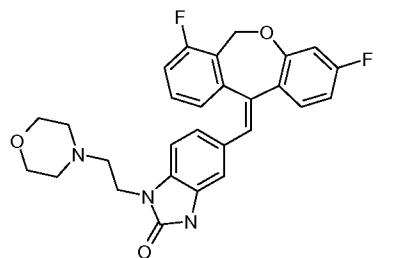


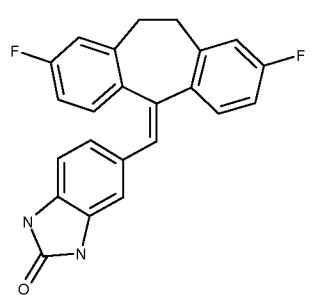
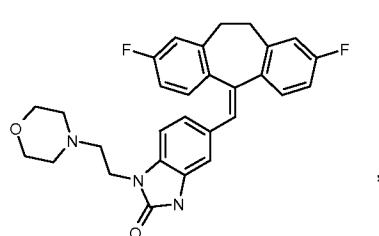
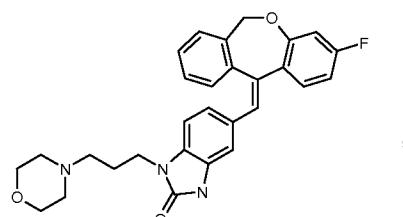
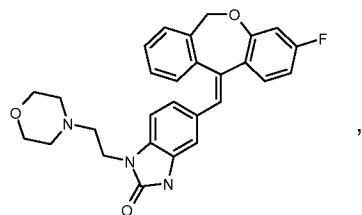
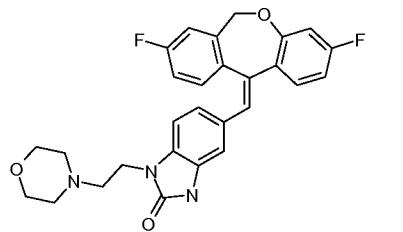
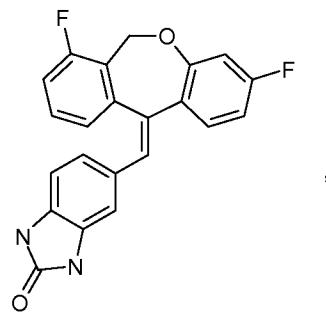
represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following

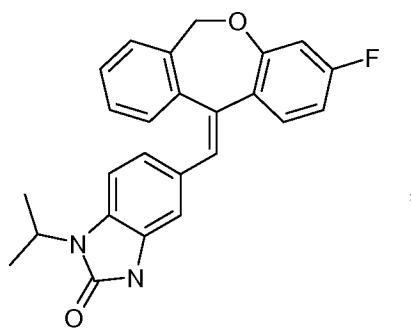
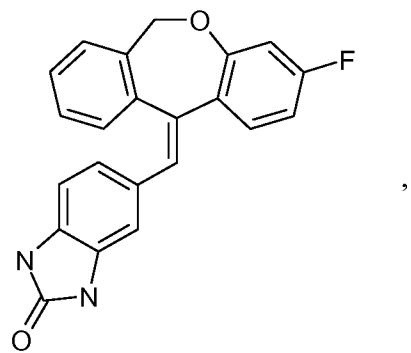
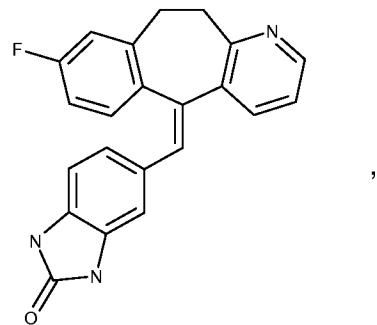
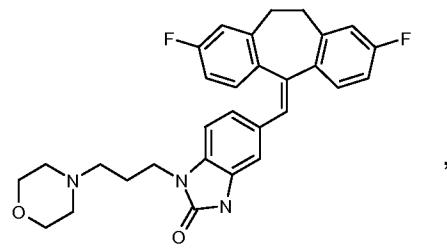


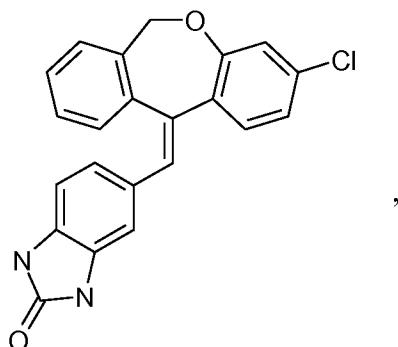
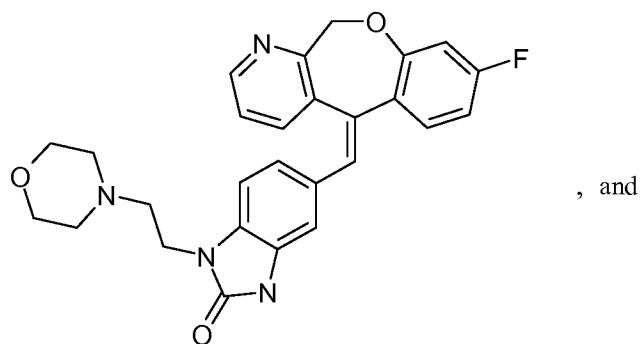
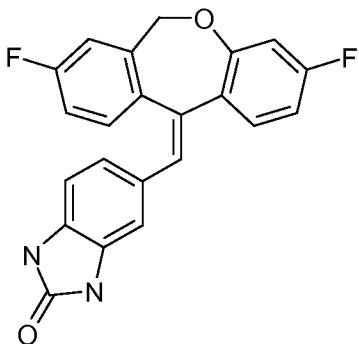
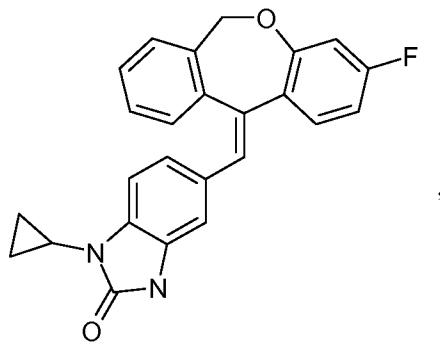
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

141. (New) The compound according to Claim 138 which is selected from the group consisting of



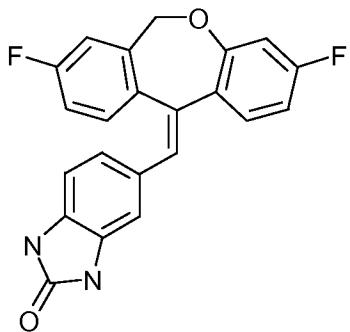






or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

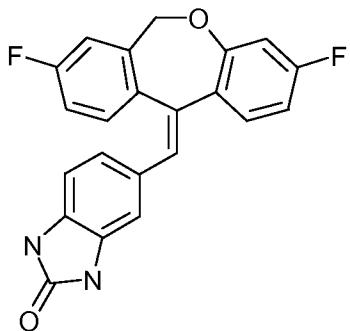
142. (New) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

143. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I according to Claim 138 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

144. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 143 comprising a compound of the formula



in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.